
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
March 28, 2007

MINUTES

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MODELING TASK FORCE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Modeling Task Force held its meeting at SCAG's Main Office in Los Angeles.

Members Present:

Mony Patel, City of Los Angeles
Tony Van Haagen, Caltrans-District 7
Ying Wang, OCTA
Yas Xu, MTA
Rena Lum, MTA
Kathy Hsiao, South Coast AQMD
Firooz Hamedani, Caltrans-District 12
Duyet Po, Caltrans - District 12
Robert Farley, MTA
Tony Calvillo, Caltrans - District 8
Felipe Robles, Caltrans - District 8
Dawn McKinstry, PB Americas Inc.
Bill Davidson, PB Americas Inc.
Chaushie Chu, MTA
Paul Burke, MTA
Steve Smith, SANBAG
Konstadinos Goulas, UCSB

SCAG Staff Members Present:

Keith Killough	Hsi-Hwa Hu
Deng Bang Lee	KiHong Kim
Huasha Liu	Mike Ainsworth
Naresh Amatya	Guoxiong Huang
Teresa Wang	Julie Zhu
Ping Chang	Alan Thompson
Andre Darmanin	Jerry Beltran
Wesley Hong	Adrianna Madrigal-Munoz

1.0 Call to order and Introductions

Acting chairperson Mony Patel, LADOT, called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

2.0 Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

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3.0 Consent Calendar

January 24, 2007 Meeting minutes, were unanimously approved.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 HPMS Update

Mr. Wesley Hong, Senior Regional Planner of SCAG Data and Monitoring division, presented the current update of the HPMS project.

Mr. Hong mentioned that SCAG held two HPMS workshops in March to assist Caltrans in collecting HPMS data from local jurisdictions. There were about 50 local staff attended the workshops. Mr. Hong presented that FHWA is proposing three major changes on HPMS data. The first change is the structure of HPMS database. It will be a GIS-based data model and incorporate multiple table formats based on geo-spatial network. The second one is the change in data items. About 19 data items will be deleted, 18 items will be changed, and 23 new items will be added. Overall, about 39% of the items will be deleted or changed, which results in a big change. The third one is data quality control and process improvement. FHWA proposes to add meta-data, revises field manual, and expands training and outreach. Finally, Mr. Hong said that SCAG would like to receive any input and suggestion from modeling task force.

Deng Bang Lee of SCAG suggested that SCAG should coordinate with modeling agencies of Southern California to get a consistent database. He also suggested that an automatic procedure to correct data should be implemented in order to avoid human errors and undercount situations. Huasha Liu of SCAG responded that Mr. Lee's comments will be provided to FHWA.

Mr. Chaushie Chu of MTA mentioned that some of the deleted data items are directly relevant to the safety or accidents type of information. Ms. Liu asked Mr. Chu send email to Wesley Hong indicating his concerns.

Mr. Hong continued to present an update to the integrated transportation and land use model assessment project. This project began last September. It is expected that a draft report will be ready in April.

4.2 Development of Activity Based Travel Demand Model

Mr. Kostas Goulias of UC Santa Barbara presented his work on the activity-based travel demand model feasibility study project. In his powerpoint presentation, he provided the following information:

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- Overview of Models
- Nested Logit Type of Models
- Synthetic Schedule Models
- Common Components
- Possible SCAG Directions

Mr. Tony Van Haagen of Caltrans asked if activity-based model requires fewer or more demands on household travel survey. Dr. Goulias explained that the models that he developed for some MPOs use traditional travel demand trip-based two-day diary or one-day diary data. He created a way of knowing time allocation and knowing who is doing what and with whom in the household. In general, the possibility of survey error is lower because people tend to remember daily activities they engaged. Mr. Bill Davidson also mentioned that a lot of time is needed to clean the dataset.

Mr. Jim Lam of Caliper commented that all members of a household under five years old are just as important. Those youngest members in a household are the most important because they tend to dictate the overall household schedule.

Mr. Guoxiong Huang of SCAG asked what the biggest challenge is in the household survey to develop activity-based model. Dr. Goulias answered that data cleaning is the most important task in household survey. He suggested that 50% of survey budget should be spent for the actual data collection and 50% for analysis and reporting. Dr. Goulias continued that it is clear about data collection - what type of data to collect, what type of questions to ask, and what would be the response rate.

4.3 Status of SCAG Model Development

Guoxiong Huang of SCAG provided an update on SCAG new model development. Mr. Huang mentioned that SCAG modeling staff has made a lot of improvements and resolved many challenges since last presentation in January 2007. Those improvements include updating freeway network and transit network, resolving inconsistency issues of socioeconomic input data, improving mode choice model, and updating truck component.

Mr. Huang mentioned that the new model will be completed within couples of weeks. To those agencies that request to test the model, SCAG will distribute 2003 base year model, and Caliper corporation will sent out the new TransCAD diskette.

Mr. Deng Bang Lee added that SCAG is preparing a model validation report and working with a consultant in preparing a peer review meeting. In addition to that, SCAG is working with Caliper to arrange TransCAD training at SCAG. Finally, Mr. Lee thanked all of the modeling task force members for their input and comments.

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4.4 Heavy-Duty Truck Model Development

Mr. Mike Ainsworth of SCAG gave a brief overview to truck model development. There are two parts of updating the existing truck model - a new truck travel survey, and recalibrate truck model with the survey data.

The consultant had conducted a first round of surveys for 13,000 contacts, but only 200 firms would work with us. That was well below what was expected. The difficulty of truck survey is that it is hard to find the right place or the right person within a company to talk to, especially to a big company. Mr. Ainsworth said that the consultant is going to target some of the big companies.

6.0 Open Discussion and Other Business

None discussed.

7.0 Schedule and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 23rd, 2007 at SCAG offices in downtown Los Angeles.

8.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.